

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 00179 171508Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SYE-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /019 W
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P R 171300Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9580
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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DEPT FOR A/SY AND A/SY/OPS/FO AND FBO; FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, TU
SUBJ: ANTI-TERRORISM PROJECTS, AMCONGEN ISTANBUL

1. GIVEN CONTINUING LEVEL OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE IN TURKEY,
I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY URGENT PROJECTS FOR WHICH WE RECEIVED
SY APPROVAL IN OCTOBER 1977 ARE STILL WAITING FUNDING FOUR
MONTHS LATER.

2. SCENARIO BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER WHEN WE RECEIVED URGENT REQUEST
BY DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT VALID PROJECTS PROMPTLY AS FUNDS STILL
AVAILABLE FROM THAT FISCAL YEAR ALLOCATION. THIS WE DID. IN
REF C, DEPARTMENT ADVISED POST THAT FUNDS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE
IN SEPTEMBER BUT THAT ISTANBUL WOULD RECEIVE HIGHEST LEVEL PRIORITY
FOR FUNDING IN OCTOBER 1977. REF C ALSO STATED THAT ALL PROJECTS
HAD APPROVAL OF OFFICE OF SECURITY. POST RESPONDED WITH REFS
D AND E GIVING SPECIFIC DETAILS AND MEASUREMENTS FOR PROJECTS.

3. THREE OF THE PROJECTS AFFORD OUR MARINE SECURITY GUARDS
PROTECTION OR ADDED PROTECTION AT THEIR POSTS. IN TWO OF THE
POSTS, THE MSG IS DANGEROUSLY EXPOSED - ONE OF THEM BEING THE
MAIN ENTRANCE FOR VISITORS. ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS, VISITORS
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HAVE TAKEN REVOLVERS FROM THEIR POCKETS AND HANDED THEM DIRECTLY
TO THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD - THERE BEING NO BARRIER TO SEPARATE
THE MARINE FROM THE VISITORS. THE MSGS ARE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY
CONCERNED BY THIS EXPOSURE, AS AM I AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH THE
SECURITY OF THIS POST.

4. ANOTHER PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTING A WALL BEHIND THE

CURRENT STEEL FENCE WHICH BORDERS THE STREET FACING THE FRONT OF THE CONSULATE. CEMENT WALLS ALREADY HAVE BEEN BUILT ON THE TWO WINGS. AT PRESENT, ANYONE PASSING BY ON FOOT OR IN A CAR ALONG THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE CONSULATE COULD VERY EASILY STRAFE THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING WITH A GUN. I WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION AS THE FENCE IS AESTHETICALLY MORE PLEASING TO THE EYE THAN THE WALL, EVEN THOUGH WE WILL MAKE THE WALL AS DECORATIVE AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, I DECIDED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SAVING LIVES BY THE WALL WAS INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY LOSS OF AESTHETICS. FURTHERMORE, I DISCUSSED IT WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF ISTANBUL WHO CONSIDERED IT A PRUDENT MEASURE.

5. ALL OF THESE MEASURES AND THE OTHERS SUBMITTED HAVE MY WHOLEHEARTED APPROVAL AS WELL AS THAT OF POST SECURITY OFFICER, THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR AND THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF SECURITY, PRESUMABLY THE PEOPLE MOST INVOLVED AND BEST INFORMED CONVERNING THE SECURITY PROBLEM OF THIS POST.

6. I GATHER THAT FBO IS HOLDING UP THE AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT SOME OF THESE PROJECTS. I FIND IT MYSTIFYING THAT FBO COULD HOLD UP PROJECTS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE PERSONNEL AND BUILDINGS OF THIS POST AND RECOMMENDED BY THE POST AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF SECURITY. I REQUEST IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION TO COMMENCE THOSE PROJECTS IN WHICH SY AND THE FBO CONCUR AND THE REASONS WHY THE OTHERS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN DISPUTE.
HOUGHTON

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NNN

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